

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

July 2008

Third District, County of San Diego

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Slater-Price Calls For Night-Flying Aircraft To Help Battle Wildfires

August marks the beginning of the most dangerous part of San Diego County's fire season, as hot Santa Ana winds significantly raise the risk of wildfire. The conflagrations that devastated Big Sur and Santa Barbara validate that California's fire season is year round. In fact, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, comprised of the top federal and state fire managers, raised the alert status to PL-5, the highest possible, on July 1, the second earliest date since 1990.

"Preparation for wildfires means having resources ready to respond when the first

flames are reported," explained Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, who is leading the effort to allow firefighting planes to fly at night as a first-strike option in combating wildfires. The County of San Diego leased two Bombardier CL-415 Superscoopers that deliver 1,620 gallons of water per drop, and need just 12 seconds to refill their tanks where the water is mixed with a fire-retardant.

"The County of San Diego has done everything within its power to upgrade fire service and improve preparedness for wild-

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The SuperScooper seen in action.



BETTER AGING

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (above) addresses the 2,000 attendees at this year's Aging Summit, which she cohosted and helped organize. This year's honoree was Laura Simon (insert), who is an award-winning painter at age 102. Keynote speaker was former NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin (right, with wife Lois), the second man to walk on the moon.



County of San Diego Wins 39 National Awards

Finances Are Top-Notch

From record-keeping to gardens, creek restoration to fire relief, the County of San Diego has once again earned more recognition than any other county in the United States when it comes to providing superior service while maintaining financial discipline.

San Diego County received 39 Achievement Awards, presented by the National Association of Counties.

"I want to salute employees who take pride in their ability to deliver the high-quality services residents of San Diego have come to expect of their county government," said Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "This continued recognition validates what residents already know - the County of San Diego is a national leader in governance."

Begun in 1970, the awards program was created as part of the association's "New County USA" campaign, which sought to modernize and streamline local government. The next highest winner was Los Angeles County with 23 awards.

San Diego County's award-winning programs represent each of its five major branches: Community Services; Finance and General Government; Health and Human Services; Land Use and Environment; and Public Safety.

Among the county initiatives honored were its Work Readiness Program for young men at the Camp Barrett residential facility for juvenile offenders; the Specialty

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AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

News of Note

Warning Issued For Plague

Blood samples collected from two ground squirrels at the Doane Valley Campground on Palomar Mountain have tested positive for plague, a bacterial disease that can be transmitted to humans through the bite of infected fleas. There have been no locally acquired human cases of plague reported in San Diego County.

Plague symptoms include a sudden onset of fever, chills and tender swollen lymph nodes. Report a sick or dead animal to Vector Control at (858) 694-2888 or visit www.SDVector.com.

County Manager Is Honored

In the first annual competition of its kind, Director of Human Resources Carlos Arauz has been selected as one of the San Diego region's "Human Resources Professionals of the Year." Arauz was named one of 10 outstanding professionals "who go above and beyond their duties as employee-focused directors," according to the publishers of the *San Diego Business Journal*, which presented the award.

One of Arauz's biggest accomplishments is the "Work Safe/Stay Healthy" program, which has saved taxpayers an average of \$2.6 million each year by reducing annual workplace injuries by an average of nearly 19 percent and lost productivity hours by 25 percent.

Recipients were chosen from among 40 finalists from both public and private organizations.

Tax Appeal Period Under Way

Individuals and businesses wishing to appeal their property tax assessments for the 2008-2009 tax year may do so through Dec. 1. To file an application, taxpayers need their parcel or tax bill number, property address and must state on the application their opinion of the property's market value. There is no fee to file an application.

Applications, information booklets and staff assistance are available at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, or online at www.sdcountry.ca.gov.



Supervisor Pam Slater-Price supported the project, allocating \$250,000 in county grant funding. Frances Hamilton-White started the effort with a \$1 million donation. Preparing for the official groundbreaking (above, from left) are: Ashley Barlett, granddaughter of longtime volunteer Elena Pitt; April Faulstich, daughter of Susanne Bruekner; President Bill Rawlings; Encinitas Mayor Jerome Stocks; Hanna Faulstich, Operations Chair Randi Coopersmith; Frances Hamilton-White and grandson Zachery Warren; and Gardens President-CEO Julian Duval.

JUST FOR THE KIDS

Ground has been broken for the new Children's Garden interactive exhibit at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. The new exhibit is part of an overall 4.5-acre, \$3.5 million expansion of the gardens.



Youth, Environment Groups Share Third District Grants

Five non-profit organizations received grants put forward by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. The Supervisor funded these organizations because each one promotes the quality-of-life in District Three communities:

- **FreePB.org**, \$7,000 to purchase items that will assist members with the clean-up efforts during the Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends. Items include corrugated trash bins, trash bags, and stadium-style portable lights with generators.
- **Highway 101 Association**, \$10,000 for marketing and supply costs associated with staging the Beach' 101 event that takes place on Sept. 7 in Encinitas, as well as production costs for the Historic 101 brochures.
- **Escondido Creek Conservancy**, \$25,000 of offset costs of the Hubbell

floor mosaic, column and ceiling mural and watershed wall topography map at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center.

The 750-acre park features 16 miles of trails. Some 6,000 people visit the park monthly. The property is owned by the San Diego County Water Authority and operated by the Olivenhain Water District.

- **Encinitas Rotary Club**, \$5,000 to offset costs of staging the 17th annual Rotary Cup soccer tournament, a premiere event that draws teams from across the county and worldwide. This year's tournament runs Aug. 9 and 10 at fields across coastal North County.

- **San Diego Shakespeare Society**, \$10,000 to offset expenses of staging the San Diego Shakespeare Education Initiative and Festival that takes place in April 2009 throughout the Third District.

AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT



SLATER-PRICE OPENS LIBRARY TEEN CENTER

Smiles and laughter marked the grand opening of the Encinitas Library Teen Center, which Supervisor Pam Slater-Price helped to establish through a \$25,000 community projects grant. The funds were used to purchase two Wii consoles, an Xbox console and a variety of video games that are popular with teens, such as "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Video Bowling." Through the use of video games at the library, teens improve their literacy, social skills and become exposed to other programs. Supervisor Slater-Price spoke to the students and guests (right and left) prior to the official ribbon-cutting (above right), with county Librarian Jose Aponte and Encinitas council members James Bond and Maggie Houlihan). Teens then tried out the new games, including bowling (below) and Rock Band (below right).



Supervisor Slater-Price also directed \$250,000 in county funds to build the new Information Literacy Lab at the new Encinitas Library.



AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

Supervisor Seeks Candidates For Boards, Panels

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price is accepting applications for volunteers to serve on various advisory panels that report to the Board of Supervisors. Openings for the Third District include:

- Air Pollution Control District hearing board, alternate member representing medical professionals. Term fills the post of a member who resigned in May.
- Air Pollution Control District hearing board, regular member representing medical professionals. Term is vacant and runs for three years.
- San Diego County Alcohol & Drug

Advisory Board, regular member. Seat is vacant.

- Assessment Appeals board 2, alternate member.
- Community Action Partnership Adminstrating Board, regular member representing the public sector.
- County Hearing Officers, regular member who must be an attorney in California practicing for at least five years.
- San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, regular member who has expertise in fish and wildlife. Appointee resigned from commission in February.

• Mobile Home Issues Commission, regular member who is a resident of a mobile home park.

• North County Gang Commission, regular member from the community. Appointee resigned in May.

• Commission on the Status of Women, regular member. Appointee was reassigned in May.

Those interested in applying for one of these openings, or want additional information on the particular assignment, should contact Erica Holloway at (619) 531-5857.

AWARDS

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and Small Business Job Order Contracting Program, which provides opportunities to smaller, local contractors; Problem Gambling Counselor Training; and the Low Impact Development Handbook, which serves as a guide for reducing the environmental impacts of development projects.

Several programs that addressed challenges presented by the 2007 wildfires were also recognized, including the Assessor's Relief for Fire Victims; Firestorm

2007 Rapid Community Response, Rebuilding Workshops and Erosion Control; the Farm & Home Advisor's Wildfire Zone; and the county's Continuity of Operations Plan. A complete list of awards is at www.naco.org.

WILDFIRES

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fires. We know the military and San Diego Fire Department are capable and willing to fight fires in the air at night," said Super-

visor Slater-Price. CalFire's current policy precludes pilots from flying a half-hour before or after sunset, depending on the situation, to a half-hour before sunrise.

"Not being able to fight fires half the time ties one hand behind our backs. We cannot afford to settle for status quo in a county that has experienced two catastrophic fires in four years.

"In the event of a wildfire, we must have the ability to use every asset in the county. And that means at all hours – day or night."

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